Numbers of selected essential commodities and their percentage variation during the months of January, 1994. February, 1994 and March, 1994 are given in the enclosed statement. [*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 104].

(b) There have been various reasons for variations in the prices of wheat, rice and sugar during the last three months. These include the revision in the central issue prices of wheat, rice and sugar which was the result of higher Minimum Support Prices paid to the farmers. The prices of other commodities except groundnut oil have either declined or remained steady.

Distribution of surplus Coarse Grains under PDS

5229. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Distribution System will use the surplus coarse grains available with the farmers ;

(b) if so, what is the present offtake of coarse grains in the PDS system ;

(c) what step are being taken to increase the distribution of coarse grains through the public Distribution system; and

(d) whether Government have made any survey in this regard in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (d) Central Government procures coarse grains at minimum Support prices announced by the Government. Coarse grains such as jowar, bajra and maize procoured by the Central Government were alloted to a few States during 1993-94 and there has been very little offtake of coarse grains through the Public Distribution System. Central Government makes allocations of foodgrains including coarse grains and its offtake is dependent on a number of factors such as availability and prices of other varieties of grains and preferences of Consummers for particular varieties. However no specific survey in this regard was conducted in Andhra Pradesh.

Restriction on Advertisement Cost to check Price Rise

5230. SHRI O. P. KOHLI : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether any limit of money that can be spent on advertisements by the manufacturers producing consumer items in a year has been fixed by Government with a view to check the resultant prices of the consumer products;

(b) if so, the dertinls thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that there is a competition amonge thece producers of consumer items to give advertisements over the Doordarshan and ZEE TV one after the other to popularise their products and recovering some parts of that expenditure from the consumers in the shape of increasing the prices of their products; and

(d) if so, the measures taken to safeguard the interests of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Central Government in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution has not fixed any limit on the money that can be spent by the manufacturers on advertisements.

(c) Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution does not possess any such information. Pricing is influenced by a variety of factors including advertising.

(d) In view of above, question does not arise.

Enhanced Sugar to Ration-Card Holders

5231. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) what steps Government propose to take to enhance the quantity of sugar available to each ration-card holder;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to assist ration-card holder to obtain sufficient quantity of sugar at reasonable price?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) Allocation of levy sugar is generally made on a norm of 425 gms. per capita monthly availability to the projected population as on 1-10-86. A 5% ad-hoc increase in the levy sugar allocation was made to States from August; 91 to march, 94. Due to constraints in the availability fo sugar, the the Central Government has proposal, at present to increase the levy sugar allocations to State/UTs. Subject to the overall allocations of levy sugar made to them, State Government and Union Territory Administrations decide sub-allocations to districts, taluks or blocks and individual Fair Price Shops. The scale of issue of levy sugar to consumers through the Public Distribution System is a matter that falls within the administrative juridiction of State Governments/U.T. administrations.

Sale of Electrical Appliances without ISI Mark

5232. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that electrical equipments and gadgets commonly used by consumers which are without ISI marks are prohibited throughout the country;

(b)if so, what the details of legal provisions in this regard;

(c) whether Government are aware that electrical equipments and gadgets without ISI marks are freely being sold throughout the country without any check whatsoever resulting in electric shocks and other fatal accidents to the consumers particularly in rural areas; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to ensure that only ISI mark electrical items are sold to the consumers in the country and impose deterrent punishment for those selling electrical items without ISI marks.